Saskatchewan Health

Focus Sheet

# Safe Driving Program Client Profile 1999/2000

On August 1, 1996 legislative changes altered the procedure by which persons convicted of an alcohol-related driving offence could have their drivers license re-instated. Under the new legislation, when a person is convicted of an alcohol-related driving offence, Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) advises the client by mail of the requirement to complete Alcohol and Drug Services (ADS) chemical dependency screening prior to being eligible to apply for their driver's licence. If screening results indicate no chemical dependence, clients are referred to Driving Without Impairment (DWI) educational courses. If screening indicates dependence syndrome, as defined by the World Health Organization, clients are referred to further assessment and rehabilitative services. Clients must satisfactorily complete recovery services before becoming eligible for license reinstatement. In 1999/2000, Saskatchewan health district Alcohol and Drug Services screened 3,446 SGI-referred clients for chemical dependence.

## Highlights

- Twenty-five percent of screened clients were chemically dependent, and were referred to Alcohol and Drug Services for recovery services. The rest (75%) were referred to Driving Without Impairment courses.
- The vast majority of clients (84%) were male.
- The largest proportion of clients (37%) were 20 to 29 years of age, followed by those 30 to 39 years of age (25%).
- Eighteen percent of clients were not working compared to the Saskatchewan unemployment rate of 6%.
- Almost one-half of clients (47%) had not completed Grade 12.
- Clients referred to Driving Without Impairment courses are younger on average than clients referred to Alcohol and Drug Services.

## Number of Clients

In 1999/2000, 3,446 clients referred by Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) attended a screening program by health district Alcohol and Drug Services to determine if they were chemically dependent.

**Figure 1: Clients Referred for Screening**

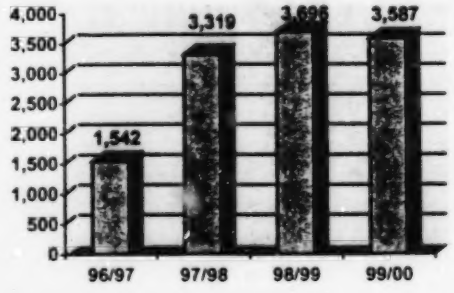
A total of 3,587 screenings were carried out for all clients. Some clients were screened more than once for the following reasons: after beginning the screening process clients moved to a new health district; clients

appealed the results of the first screening; and clients dropped out of the screening program and re-appeared later on.

In total, 2,734 clients (79%) completed the screening process (Figure 1). The remaining 712 clients had not completed screening for various reasons: some clients were in the middle of screening at the end of the fiscal year, and would complete screening in 2000/2001; some clients had moved to a new health district after beginning the screening process; and some clients dropped out.

## Trends

**Figure 2: Screenings Per Year**



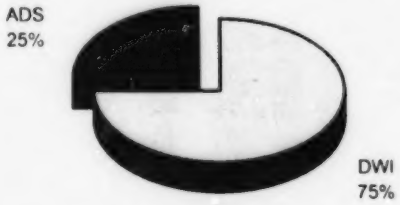

The number of screenings appears to have levelled off in 1999/2000. The number of screenings for 1996/97 only covers a nine-month period, since the program started in the middle of the year.

## Results of Screening

Of those 2,734 individuals who completed the screening process, 682 (25%) were determined to be chemically dependent, and were referred to Alcohol and Drug Services (ADS) for individualized recovery services. 2,052 clients (75%) were determined not to be chemically dependent, and were referred to the Driving Without Impairment (DWI) course (Figure 3).

Alcohol and Drug Services provided recovery services for 627 SGI-referred clients who had been determined to be chemically dependent.

**Figure 3: Referral of Screened Clients**




# Client Characteristics

The following client characteristics are based on all clients referred by SGI, regardless of whether or not screening has been completed.

**Table 1: Sex, Age and Ancestry of Clients**

| | No. | % |
|---|---|---|
| **All Clients** | 3,446 | 100% |
| **Sex** | | |
| Male | 2,895 | 84% |
| Female | 551 | 16% |
| **Age** | | |
| 19 and under | 396 | 11% |
| 20-29 | 1,292 | 37% |
| 30-39 | 866 | 25% |
| 40-49 | 578 | 17% |
| 50-59 | 204 | 6% |
| 60+ | 110 | 3% |
| **Ancestry** | | |
| Non-Aboriginal | 2,382 | 69% |
| Aboriginal | 1,064 | 31% |

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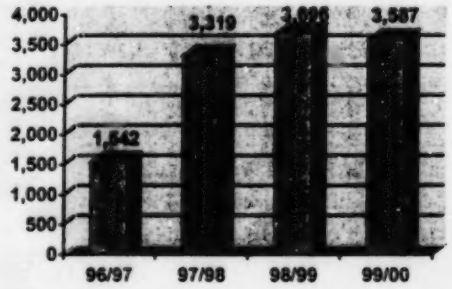


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| Non-Aboriginal | 2,382 | 69% |
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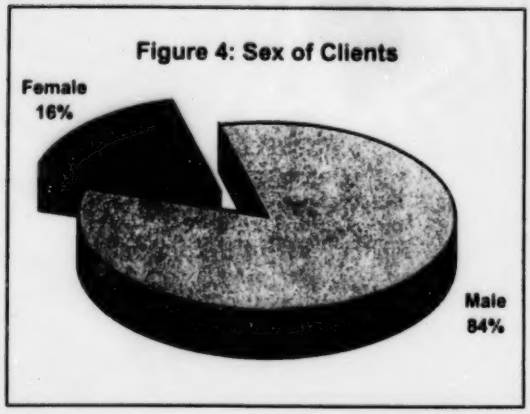
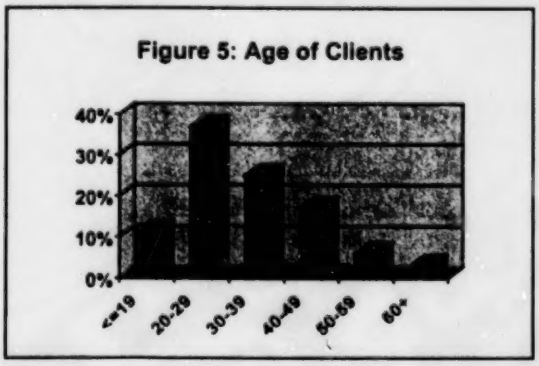
## Sex

The overwhelming majority of clients referred by SGI were male. There were 2,895 male clients (84%) compared to 551 female clients (16%) (Table 1, Figure 4).




## Age

The average age of clients was 33. Clients came from all age groups, but were concentrated in the 20-29 (37%) and 30-39 (25%) age groups. The number of SGI referrals declined as age increased (Table 1, Figure 5).




## Ancestry

Thirty-one percent of clients referred by SGI in 1999/2000 were Aboriginal (Table 1). Only an estimated 9% of the 1996 Saskatchewan population 15 years and over was Aboriginal (1996 is the most recent year for which this data is available.)

## Marital Status

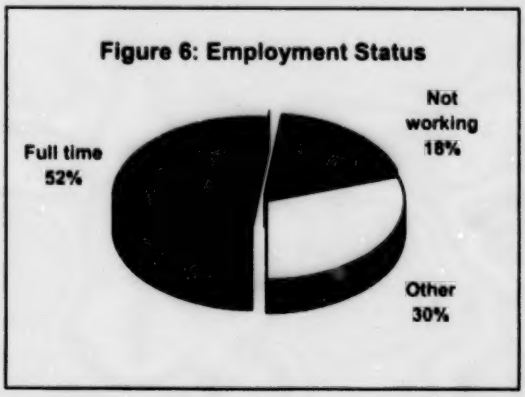
Half of all clients were single (50%), followed by married or common law (34%), divorced (9%), separated (6%), and widowed (1%).

## Employment

In 1999/2000, 87% of clients referred by SGI stated that they had worked during the past year. Fifty-two percent of clients were working full time. Eighteen percent were unemployed. This compares to the 1999 unemployment rate of 6% in the Saskatchewan population 15 years and over (Table 2, Figure 6).

**Table 2: Employment Status**

| | No. | % |
|---|---|---|
| Full-time | 1,794 | 52% |
| Part-time | 363 | 11% |
| Not Working | 626 | 18% |
| Student | 283 | 8% |
| Retired | 60 | 2% |
| Homemaker | 84 | 2% |
| Seasonal | 228 | 7% |



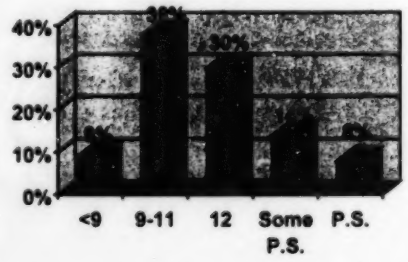
## Education

Almost one half of clients (47%) had less than a grade 12 education. Thirty percent had completed Grade 12, and an additional 23% had received some post-secondary education, either at a university or technical institute (Table 3, Figure 7). In the 1996 Saskatchewan population, 43% of those ages 15 or over had received some post-secondary education (1996 is the most recent year available for this information.)

**Table 3: Educational Status**

| | No. | % |
|---|---|---|
| Less than grade 9 | 299 | 9% |
| Grade 9 to 11 | 1,314 | 38% |
| Grade 12 | 1,035 | 30% |
| Some post-secondary | 497 | 14% |
| Completed post-secondary | 292 | 8% |

**Figure 7: Education**



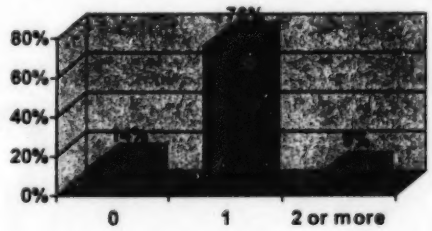

## Occupation

The occupational group with the largest percentage of SGI screening clients was that of skilled trade (23%), followed by semi-skilled (20%), unskilled (15%), student (9%) and farmer (4%). The remaining 29% were classified as homemaker, professional, managerial, clerical, sales, farm labourer, hotel/restaurant, small business owner, retired and other.

## Legal Status

In the two years prior to receiving screening services, a total of 2,952 clients (86%) reported having impaired driving convictions. Fourteen percent reported not having previous impaired driving convictions. This is because people convicted of other alcohol-related driving offences (e.g. driving while disqualified and leaving the scene of an accident) are referred to the Safe Driving Program. A total of 321 clients (9%) had been convicted two or more times (Figure 8).

**Figure 8: Impaired Driving Convictions in Past 2 Years**




# Comparison of Clients Referred to Driving Without Impairment and Alcohol and Drug Services

## Number of Clients

Of the 2,734 clients who completed screening, 682 clients (25%) were referred to Alcohol and Drug Services (ADS) for dependency recovery services, and 2,052 (75%) were referred to the Driving Without Impairment (DWI) program.

## Sex

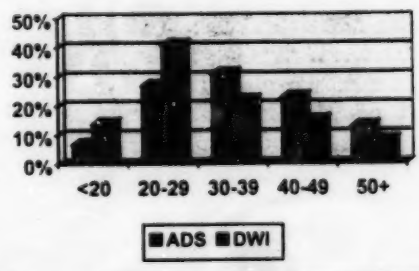
The percentage of men and women is similar among clients referred to ADS and DWI services. Eighty-six percent of ADS clients are male, and 84% of DWI clients are male (Table 4).

**Table 4 ADS vs. DWI clients by Sex, Age and Ancestry**

| | ADS clients | | DWI clients | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No. | % of total | No. | % of total |
| **All Clients** | 682 | 100% | 2,052 | 100% |
| **Sex** | | | | |
| Male | 585 | 86% | 1,717 | 84% |
| Female | 97 | 14% | 335 | 16% |
| **Age** | | | | |
| 19 and under | 47 | 7% | 280 | 14% |
| 20-29 | 184 | 27% | 837 | 41% |
| 30-39 | 212 | 31% | 458 | 22% |
| 40-49 | 155 | 23% | 301 | 15% |
| 50-59 | 58 | 9% | 108 | 5% |
| 60+ | 26 | 4% | 68 | 3% |
| **Ancestry** | | | | |
| Non-Aboriginal | 394 | 58% | 1,595 | 78% |
| Aboriginal | 288 | 42% | 457 | 22% |

## Age

**Figure 9: Ages of ADS and DWI Clients**

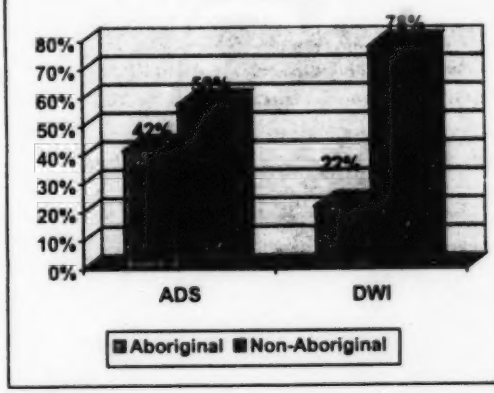



On average, clients referred to ADS services are slightly older than clients referred to DWI services. ADS clients had an average age of 34, compared to 32 for DWI clients. There is a much higher proportion of individuals 19 and under among DWI clients (14%) than among ADS clients (7%) (Table 4, Figure 9).

## Ancestry

Forty-two percent of clients referred to ADS services are Aboriginal, compared to 22% of clients referred to DWI services (Table 4, Figure 10).

**Figure 10: Ancestry of ADS and DWI Clients**




## Marital Status

A higher proportion of DWI clients were single (54%) than ADS clients (39%).

## Employment

A higher proportion of DWI clients had worked in the past year than ADS clients (89% vs. 82%). DWI clients were more likely to have been working full time (56%) than ADS clients (47%). The unemployment rate among DWI clients (15%) was lower than among ADS clients (22%)

## Education

Almost one half of clients (47%) had less than a grade 12 education. Thirty percent had completed Grade 12, and an additional 23% had received some post-secondary education, either at a university or technical institute (Table 3, Figure 7). In the 1996 Saskatchewan population, 43% of those ages 15 or over had received some post-secondary education (1996 is the most recent year available for this information.)

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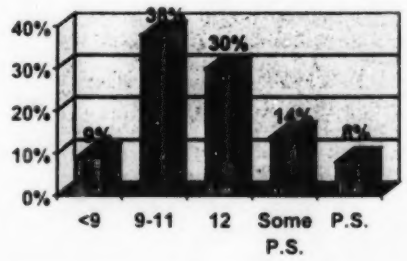


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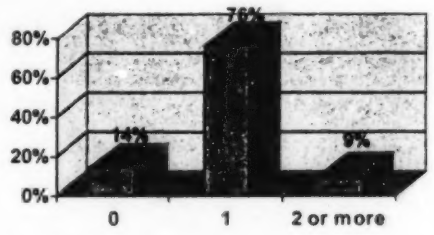


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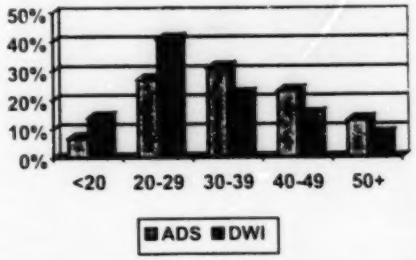


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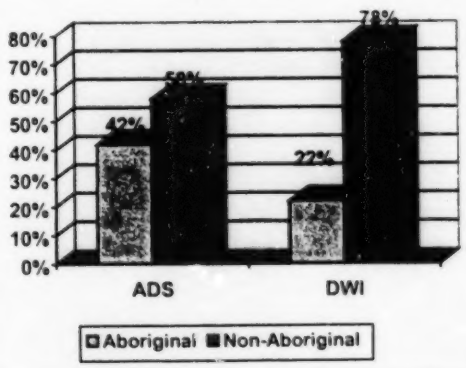


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## Education

Clients referred to ADS services had less education than those referred to DWI. Fifty-six percent of ADS clients had less than a grade 12 education, compared to 42% of DWI clients (Table 5).

**Table 5 ADS vs. DWI clients by Education**

| | ADS clients | | DWI clients | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No. | % | No. | % |
| Less than grade 9 | 100 | 15% | 142 | 7% |
| Grade 9 to 11 | 279 | 41% | 715 | 35% |
| Grade 12 | 182 | 27% | 668 | 33% |
| Some post-secondary | 73 | 11% | 328 | 16% |
| Complete post-secondary | 45 | 7% | 198 | 10% |

## Occupation

ADS and DWI clients had similar occupational patterns.

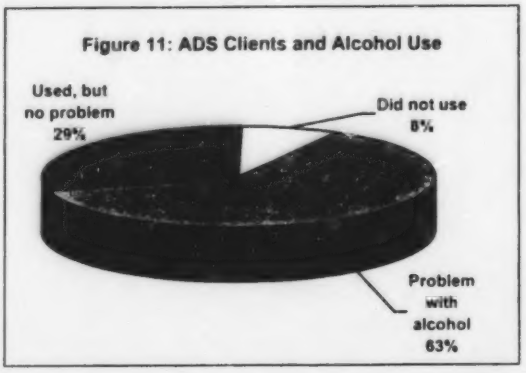
## Legal Status

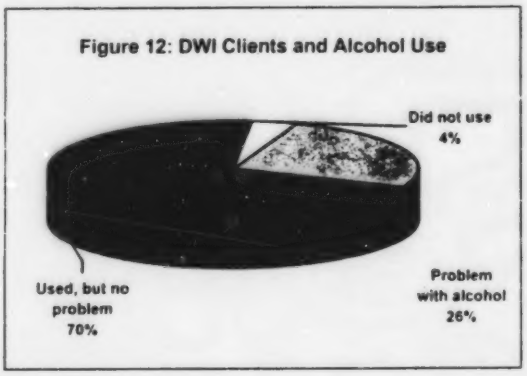
ADS clients had a greater involvement with the legal system than DWI clients. ADS clients had an average of 1.1 impaired driving convictions during the previous 2 years compared to 0.9 convictions for DWI clients.

## Type of Problem

Sixty-three percent of ADS clients stated they had a problem with alcohol, compared to 26% of DWI clients. Twenty-nine percent of ADS clients stated they used alcohol, but that it was not causing a problem. Seventy percent of DWI clients stated that their alcohol use was not causing a problem.

Forty-one percent of clients screened for ADS services had been admitted to addiction programs during the previous 2 years, compared to 11% of clients screened for DWI services.




## Notes

Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Totals may differ due to missing data for some categories.

**Sources**: Saskatchewan Health, Community Care Branch's *Management Information System* (1999/2000 data); Statistics Canada, *The Nation: Complete Edition, Census 96*, Catalogue 93F0020XCB96003 and Catalogue 93F0025XDB96001

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